

Application Serial No. 09/975,600

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 13, as follows:

In the embodiment illustrated in FIGs 1 – 3, the openings are in a regular, repeating array (although virtually any pattern of openings which satisfies one or more of the foregoing performance objectives may be employed). For the illustrated regular rectangular array of openings, each opening suitably exhibits a side dimension in the range of six inches two to four feet, with a spacing in the range of six inches to four feet. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the square openings have side dimensions in the range of two feet with a spacing of two feet between openings.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 24, line 16, as follows:

Referring now to FIG. 14, a cross-section taken along line ~~XIV-XIV~~ 14-14 of FIG. 21 illustrates a portion of perforated floor 1402 supported by columns 1002 which extend between the bottom surface of the perforated floor and floor 904 of a facilities room 1404. As discussed above, by ensuring that the top surface of form 1204 is parallel to or slightly lower than the top surface of columns 1002, the perforated floor may be supported directly by columns 1002. As also discussed above, it may be desirable to incorporate beams which extend horizontally between respective columns so that the beams are integral with the perforated floor.

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